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RICHVALE IRRIGATION DISTRICT

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NOTICE OF RICHVALE IRRIGATION DISTRICT'S INTENT TO SERVE AS GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY FOR A PORTION OF THE EAST BUTTE SUBBASIN

This letter constitutes notice to the Department of Water Resources (DWR), pursuant to Water Code sections 10723(d) and 10723.8, of Richvale Irrigation District's (District) intent to undertake sustainable groundwater management of the East Butte Subbasin (the Basin) as a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) pursuant to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). This notice of intent is timely filed within 30 days of the date the District's Board of Directors (Board) approved a resolution electing to serve as a GSA. The resolution is attached hereto as Exhibit A and a map showing the District's political boundaries and proposed GSA management area is attached as an exhibit to the resolution. No new bylaws, ordinances, or other new authorities were adopted in connection with the resolution to serve as GSA.

As of the date of this notice, no other entity has notified the District of its intent to serve as GSA for the Basin, nor has DWR posted any such notice pursuant to Water Code section 10733.3. Should they elect to serve as GSAs, the GSA management areas of Butte County, Western Canal Water District, Butte Water District, Biggs-West Gridley Water District, and Thermalito Water and Sewer District may be near, adjacent to, or overlapping the District's proposed GSA management area. Other potential GSAs in the Basin, but outside of the District's proposed GSA

¹ The Butte County Board of Supervisors passed Resolution No. 15-039 on March 24, 2015, which states the County's intent to serve as GSA for groundwater basins within Butte County, including the portion of the Basin within Butte County, but no notice of intent has been posted on DWR's website, nor was notice provided to the District.

management area, include Sutter County, Sutter Extension Water District, and the Cities of Live Oak, Oroville, Gridley, and Biggs.

Interested parties within the District's proposed GSA management area, determined pursuant to Water Code section 10723.2, include:

(a) Holders of overlying groundwater rights, including:

(1) Agricultural users

The District's proposed GSA management area is composed almost entirely of agricultural users, most of whom have a preexisting relationship with the District.

(2) Domestic well owners

There are domestic wells within the GSA, however, based on current and likely future groundwater conditions in the Basin, it is anticipated that the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) will exclude domestic wells.

(b) Municipal well operators

N/A. None within the District's proposed GSA management area.

(c) Public water systems

N/A. None within the District's proposed GSA management area.

(d) Local land use planning agencies

Butte County

(e) Environmental users of groundwater

There are environmental users of groundwater within and near the District's proposed GSA management area. These environmental users pump groundwater to provide habitat to migrating waterfowl and other species.

- (f) <u>Surface water users</u>, if there is a hydrologic connection between surface and groundwater bodies N/A.
- (g) The federal government, including, but not limited to, the military and managers of federal lands N/A. None within the District's proposed GSA management area.

(h) California Native American tribes

N/A. None within the District's proposed GSA management area.

(i) <u>Disadvantaged communities</u>, including, but not limited to, those served by private domestic wells or small community water systems

N/A. None within the District's proposed GSA management area.

(j) Entities listed in Section 10927 that are monitoring and reporting groundwater elevations in all or a part of a groundwater basin managed by the groundwater sustainability agency

Any entities described in Section 10927 are listed above.

Under Water Code section 10723.8(a)(4), this notice must explain how the interests of the interested parties identified above will be considered in the development and operation of the GSA and the development and implementation of the GSP. The District is committed to an open and inclusive process to implement SGMA. Interested parties will have opportunities, both formal and informal, to provide input to the District throughout the process of developing, operating, and implementing the GSA and GSP. Such opportunities may include, but are not limited to, public comment periods required by SGMA (e.g., Water Code section 10728.4); opportunities for public comment during the District's regular and special board meetings; and at other times to be determined and noticed pursuant to Water Code section 10727.8(a)).

August 21, 2015

Sean Earley, General Manager Richvale Irrigation District

RESOLUTION NO. 2015-03 ELECTION TO SERVE AS GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

WHEREAS, the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014 ("SGMA") was signed into law on September 16, 2014; and

WHEREAS, SGMA requires that each California groundwater basin or subbasin be managed by a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA), or multiple GSAs, and that such management be implemented pursuant to an approved Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) or multiple GSPs; and

WHEREAS, Richvale Irrigation District (District) overlies a subbasin of the Sacramento Valley Groundwater Basin known as the East Butte Subbasin (Basin No. 5-21.59 in the Department of Water Resources' CASGEM system), an unadjudicated groundwater basin overlying portions of Butte and Sutter Counties (the "Basin"); and

WHEREAS, the District, as a local public agency overlying the Basin, is authorized to be a GSA for the Basin; and

WHEREAS, notice of a public hearing to consider whether the District should elect to be a GSA for the Basin, a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit A, was published in the Gridley Herald and in the Appeal Democrat, on August 8, 2015 and again on August 12, 2015, pursuant to section 6066 of the Government Code, as required by section 10723(b) of the Water Code; and

WHEREAS, courtesy copies of the hearing notice were also sent to each of the Basin's other potential GSAs, including the Boards of Supervisors of Butte and Sutter Counties, Biggs-West Gridley Water District, Western Canal Water District, Butte Water District, Thermalito Water and Sewer District, Sutter Extension Water District, and the cities of Oroville, Biggs, Gridley, and Live Oak.

WHEREAS, the District held a public hearing at which its Board of Directors considered whether the District should become a GSA for the Basin; and

WHEREAS, it would be in the best interest of the District to become a GSA for the Basin;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, ORDERED, AND DIRECTED that:

- 1. The District hereby elects to be the exclusive Groundwater Sustainability Agency for at least that portion of the East Butte Subbasin that is shown the map attached hereto as Exhibit B and incorporated herein by this reference.
- 2. Within 30 days of the date of this Resolution, the General Manager is directed to submit a notice of the District's intent to the Department of Water Resources, pursuant to Water Code section 10723.8(a).
- 3. The General Manager shall, after complying with Water Code section 10727.8, begin the process of developing the District's Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the Basin in accordance with all applicable statutes and regulations.
- 4. The General Manager shall create and maintain a list of persons interested in receiving notices concerning the District's SGMA process pursuant to section 10723.4 of the Water Code.
- 5. The General Manager shall provide regular progress reports on the SGMA implementation process to the Board at least quarterly.

AYES: 3

NOES: Ø

ABSENT: Ø

ABSTAIN:

By Lyle Job, President

Attest:

Sean Earley, Secretary to the Board

8/20/2015

